



For Immediate Release

HIGH LINE PRESENTS *IN/WITH CHELSEA* **With artists Alicia Grullón, Betty Yu, Lizania Cruz, and Shannon Finnegan**

New York, NY (November 12, 2019) —The High Line presents *In/With Chelsea* through April 2, 2019. This series of artworks are installed as street signs in the area between 9th and 10th Avenue and 26th to 34th Streets. They insert local memory and advocacy within the neighborhood of North Chelsea that surrounds the Spur, the last section of the High Line to be converted into public space.

Artists Alicia Grullón, Betty Yu, Lizania Cruz, and Shannon Finnegan were commissioned to work with service providers, businesses, and community members to engage in storytelling workshops, interviews, and conversations with local residents and workers from communities throughout Chelsea. As passerby walk through North Chelsea, they find reflections on moments of these interactions and neighborhood histories on street signs. All of the signage was produced and installed by the New York City Department of Transportation’s Art Program and Sign Shop.

“Each year, in collaboration with DOT’s Sign Shop, DOT Art presents a signature signage project on street light poles in a neighborhood,” said Emily Colasacco, Director, DOT Art + Event Programming. “We value the opportunity to showcase the work of our in-house production teams with the installation of engaging, bold and graphic artwork.”

For six months in 2018, these four artists engaged with partners including Hudson Guild, The Center, Center for Independence of the Disabled New York, National Domestic Worker Alliance, Esposito Meat Market, GMHC, Fountain House Gallery, and the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, to create a series of street signs to make the historical and social landscape of long-time residents visible to the broader public. These works add historical context and contemporary voices to the narrative of our changing urban landscape. Each artist worked with a different population: senior residents, LGBTQ+ populations, neighbors with disabilities, garment workers, and union laborers.

“The *In/With Chelsea* street signs are remnants of months of engagement between these four artists and legacy neighbors and workers,” said Diya Vij, Associate Curator of Public Programs



at the High Line. “The signs are a reminder to passersby that Chelsea is a neighborhood with a deep cultural and activist history. Amidst a rapidly changing streetscape, we hope to affirm the voice and advocacy of the participants and to demonstrate the High Line’s commitment to serve them.”

Alicia Grullón

Alicia Grullón worked with Hudson Guild and senior programs at Penn South. Coming into Chelsea, Alicia Grullón stepped into a tangle of all the political questions she’s been working with for the last 20 years: issues around development, displacement, art, housing, and longstanding communities. Grullón talked to long-time residents of Chelsea who have experienced all of these neighborhood changes.

Betty Yu

Betty Yu looked to capture the labor stories of everyday people—past and present; union and non-union; informal and formal; immigrant, undocumented, and US born. She interviewed a broad cross section of workers—people in retail, labor organizing, the service industry, non-profits, and domestic work. Yu also hosted a story circle with longtime union organizers and members of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union.

Lizania Cruz

Throughout the spring and summer of 2018, Lizania Cruz ran a series of workshops with youth at the New York City Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center (The Center). She guided the workshops with the question: “How can we tell the lesser known stories of LGBT+ Chelsea— stories of seniors, queer youth, people of color—folks who have lived here, worked here, hung out here, and shaped the neighborhood?” Cruz’s goal was to create something less documentary, and more collaborative. Participants made collages, took photographs, and visited historic sites in the neighborhood. Her final product, the street signs themselves, features poetry created by both young people and seniors from SAGE, the longest-running organization for LGBT older people and their caregivers.

Shannon Finnegan

Shannon Finnegan spoke with people with disabilities and people who live with mental illness about creating community on the West Side of Manhattan. She connected with CIDNY, the Center for Independent Living in New York; Fountain House, a “clubhouse” for people living with mental illness; and Heidi Latsky, who works with dancers with disabilities through her company Heidi Latsky Dance. Finnegan wanted to know: what do you love about living here? What is frustrating about living here? What are things that make life a little easier? What are ways that landlords, employers, the city, and fellow New Yorkers could think and act that would make the city more accessible?



Programs

A selection of photographs of the *In/With Chelsea* street signs, installed in partnership with the NYC DOT, will be on view on the High Line in the 14th Street Passage from November 15 – December 15, 2019.

The High Line will co-present a pop-up exhibition at Fountain House Gallery (702 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY) from February 20 – March 1, 2020.

Please check thehighline.org for updates and future programs.

SUPPORT

In/With Chelsea is presented in partnership with the NYC Department of Transportation's Art Program.

Major support for High Line Programs is provided by The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston. High Line Programs and accessibility are made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York City Council, under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson.

ABOUT THE HIGH LINE

Built on a historic, elevated freight line, we reimagine public space with our communities, neighborhoods, and city, in partnership with NYC Parks. The High Line is a park where visitors can view art, walk through gardens, experience a performance, or connect with friends and neighbors, all while enjoying a unique perspective of New York City. We raise nearly 100% of the annual budget for our programming, maintenance, and operations.

For more information, visit thehighline.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE NYC DOT ART PROGRAM

Launched in 2008, the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program invigorates the City's streetscapes with engaging temporary art installations. The program partners with community-based organizations and artists to present murals, sculptures, projections and performances on plazas, fences, barriers, bridges, step streets and sidewalks for up to 11 months. www.nyc.gov/dotart

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